

## BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension of	)	
	)	
the Educator Certificate of	)	ORDER OF
	)	
Francis W. Nobles,	)	SUSPENSION
	)	
Certificate # 105070	)	

### SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this certificate suspension matter on December 7, 2004. On October 26, 2004, the South Carolina Department of Education (Department) sent Francis W. Nobles a notice of his right to a hearing before the State Board concerning the possible suspension or revocation of his South Carolina educator certificate number 105070 on the grounds of unprofessional conduct. Said notice was sent by certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery, and regular mail. Mr. Nobles received the notice as evidenced by a postal receipt bearing his signature. Mr. Nobles did not request a hearing within the time frame specified in the notice letter. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to suspend Mr. Nobles' teaching certificate # 105070 for a period of two years commencing on December 7, 2004, and ending December 8, 2006.

### FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Nobles holds a valid South Carolina certificate with over twenty-nine years of teaching experience. On September 7, 2004, Mr. Nobles resigned from Carolina Forest Middle School, Horry County School District, after being arrested for assignation on August 17, 2004. Mr. Nobles reportedly propositioned an undercover police officer at an adult bookstore for oral sex. Mr. Nobles did not contest the charge and paid the required fine.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

“The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person.” S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004). S.C. Code Ann. 59-25-160 (2004) ; 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (1991). Just cause includes “Unprofessional conduct ...Crime against the law of this State of the United States...Immorality... and Any conduct involving moral turpitude.” S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (1990). The State Board finds that there is sufficient evidence to support its decision to accept the suspension of Mr. Nobles’ certificate # 105070, from December 7, 2004, through December 8, 2006, upon the conditions set forth above. At the end of the suspension period, he may re-apply for reinstatement with the Office of Teacher Certification and he must meet all current certification requirements.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/ Mary E. Jones  
Dr. Mary E. Jones  
Chair

Columbia, South Carolina  
December 7, 2004